

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04556 281207Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 /100 W

-----109968 281214Z /41

R 281030Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8767

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1075

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SA

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: (A) STATE 148782, (B) 76 JIDDA 2006

SUMMARY: A KEY ELEMENT IN THE COOPERATION WE HAVE HAD FROM THE SAUDIS ON A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES HAS BEEN THE BETTER AND MORE TIMELY INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM THE DEPARTMENT. WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS WE CAN EXPECT CONTINUED COOPERATION. IT IS VITAL THAT WE BE ABLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH THE SAG WELL BEFORE THEIR DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED AND DEPARTED FOR A CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THANKS IN LARGE MEASURE TO THE EARLY, CONTINUOUS AND COPIOUS FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT WE HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO GETTING THE SAUDIS TO COOPERATE WITH US ON A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US. WITH CONTINUED BACKUP FROM THE DEPARTMENT WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER SAUDI COOPERATION ON MANY ISSUES NOT RELATED TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. SO LONG AS THE SAUDIS BELIEVE THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT MOVING QUICKLY TOWARDS A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04556 281207Z

MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WE CAN ALSO EXPECT THAT THEY WILL SHOW MODERATION ON SOME ISSUES INVOLVING ISRAEL. THIS WILL DEPEND ALSO ON THE MATTER AT ISSUE (THE SAUDIS FOR INSTANCE FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM) AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH OTHER ARAB STATES SUCH AS EGYPT AND SYRIA ARE PREPARED TO TAKE MODERATE POSITIONS.

2. THE ANALYSIS OF THE SAUDI APPROACH TO MULTILATERAL ISSUES DETAILED AT SOME LENGTH IN 76 JIDDA 2006 REMAINS VALID. THE SAUDIS CONTINUE TO PREFER A LOW PROFILE IN MOST INSTANCES, AND WILL GENERALLY GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS, ESPECIALLY ONE SUPPORTED BY THE THIRD WORLD, UNLESS THERE IS A MAJOR SAUDI INTEREST AT STAKE. THEY CAN BE INDUCED, HOWEVER, TO BREAK FROM THE PACK TO SUPPORT A FRIENDLY COUNTRY WHEN THAT COUNTRY GIVES A HIGH VALUE TO SAUDI SUPPORT (E.G. THE PUERTO RICAN AND KOREAN QUESTIONS). IN THESE CASES THE SAUDIS DO NOT ASK FOR A SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUO BUT THEY REGARD THEMSELVES AS HAVING ACCUMULATED SOME POLITICAL CREDIT.

3. WE WISH TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING INFORMATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. SAUDI DELEGATIONS GET THEIR INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE GOING TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES. SOMETIMES THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE QUITE EXPLICIT; MORE OFTEN THEY ARE GENERALIZED, E.G. TO LIE LOW AND SUPPORT THE CONSENSUS, TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY ARAB POSITION, TO OPPOSE A COMMUNIST POSITION. SAUDI DELEGATIONS SELDOM TAKE AN INITIATIVE, WILL NOT GO AGAINST THE TENOR OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND ARE LOATH TO GO BACK AND REQUEST MODIFICATION OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. SAUDI DELEGATIONS ARE MOST RESPONSIVE TO THE LOBBYING OF OUR DELEGATIONS WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BEFOREHAND TO WORK WITH US OR TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 04556 281207Z

4. AT THE SAME TIME, ONCE A DELEGATION HAS LEFT THE KINGDOM IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ISSUE REVISED INSTRUCTIONS. THIS TAKES REPRESENTATIONS AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL--USUALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HE MUST SOMETIMES GET THE CROWN PRINCE'S APPROVAL. THERE OFTEN ISN'T TIME FOR THIS BECAUSE THE SAUDI BUREAUCRACY IS VERY SLOW AND THE TOP LEADERSHIP NOT ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE. WITH ENOUGH TIME WE CAN PUT IN POSITION PAPERS AT THE WORKING LEVEL, LET THEM WORK THEIR WAY UP AND MAKE A SINGLE PRESENTATION AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL WHEN THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN DIGESTED. WE KNOW THAT SUCH AN ORDERLY APPROACH IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT IS THE WAY TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS WITH THE LEAST DRAW-DOWN OF POLITICAL CREDIT.

5. FOR ISSUES AT THE UN IN NEW YORK THERE IS THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF SAUDI PERMREP JAMIL BAROODY. HE HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO HEEL AND MAY NEVER BE, BUT WE THINK IS IS NOT QUITE AS FREE-WHEELING AS HE ONCE WAS. AGAIN, IF WE START EARLY ENOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL HAVE SOME SUCCESS IN GETTING THE SAG TO ISSUE FIRM AND PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL LIMIT HIS CAPACITY FOR MISCHIEF.

6. WE LOOK FORWARD TO COMMENTING ON WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM
THE SAUDIS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED
AND OUR POSITIONS DETERMINED.
WEST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA04556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770230-0463
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770611/aaaaajnn.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49199e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 148782, 76 JIDDA 2006
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2011658
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49199e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009